

ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

FIFTIETH SENATE

23rd SESSION

5 MAY 2021

BILL #5026
Gender Affirming Garment Bill

DISCLAIMER: A signature to sponsor is not the same as supporting the content of any piece of legislation, it is simply a statement asking for the legislation to be heard.

SPONSORED BY:

WRITTEN BY: Jaqukeyah Fields, Senator, Women and Gender Advocacy Center; Brandon Lowry, Senator, Pride Resource Center; Cindy Trinh, Senator, Pride Resource Center; Micki Taylor, Trans Student Support Representative; Charlie Williamson, Trans Student Support Representative;

COLLABORATED WITH: Pride Resource Center Administration

ENDORSED BY: Lori Lynn, Executive Director, CSU Health Network; Reid Trotter, PhD, Director of Counseling Services, CSU Health Network; Helen F. Bowden, Ph.D., Licensed Psychologist, Coordinator of Eating Disorder Services at CSUHN; Emily Morse, DNP., Nurse Practitioner, Women and Gender Care Clinic; Glynn Forkey, LCSW, MA – Behavioral Health Consultant & Team Lead at CSUHN; Jill Vesty, FNP., CSU Health Network, Danna Quinn, FNP., Nurse Practitioner, Women and Gender Care, CSUHN; Hannah Taylor, President, ASCSU;

Lizzy Osterhoudt, Chair, ASCSU Budgetary Affairs Committee; Benton Roesler, Chair, ASCSU University Affairs Committee; Ariadne Athey, Vice-Chair, ASCSU Internal Affairs Committee; Shaylee Richardson, Associate Senator, Pride Resource Center; Ben Torres Doxey, Senator, Asian Pacific American Cultural Center; McKenna Daly, Director of University Affairs, ASCSU; Jasper Sloss, Chief of Staff, ASCSU; ASCSU Budgetary Affairs Committee; Mia Ritter, Associate Senator, Native American Cultural Center; Evan Welch, Senator, College of Liberal Arts; University Affairs Committee

ABSTRACT: This bill will allocate \$12,400 of ASCSU Legislative and Executive Funds to the Gender Affirming Garment Program run by the Pride Resource Center and Women and Gender Advocacy Center.

WHEREAS

The Pride Resource Center and Women and Gender Advocacy Center, with support from the CSU Health Network, have collaborated to provide free access to trans masculine, trans feminine, and expression neutralizing gender-affirming garments to CSU students; and,

WHEREAS

The Gender Affirming Garment (GAG) program provides accessible and confidential resources to trans students on CSU campus; and,

WHEREAS

These resources include Chest binders from gc2b, Bra inserts and Gaffs from origami customs; and,

WHEREAS

With appropriate funding, the Pride Resource Center would be able to expand their services to include items such as: Bra inserts, compression underwear, tucking straps, make-up, razors, binders, Trans tape, packing underwear, period cups, and info cards for safe use; and,

WHEREAS

Accessibility, confidentiality, and support are priorities within the GAG program and many trans identified students struggle with having access to GAG resources due to financial disparities, familial difficulties or other undisclosed reasons, thus contributing to more obstacles when affirming their gender identity; and,

WHEREAS

These resources when purchased by students often cost the same as a tank of gas or grocery trip. Leaving students to decide between purchasing gender affirming garments or food; and,

WHEREAS

These resources are provided to students for free by donations to the Pride Resource Center and through fundraising; and,

WHEREAS

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, fundraising has not been an option this year and demands for these resources have continually increased due to the transition into a remote learning environment where many have been forced to go home to unwelcoming and difficult family environments; and,

WHEREAS

ASCSU can alleviate these obstacles by honoring the historical implications that go into gender affirming resources and providing more funding to expand the program's resources; and,

WHEREAS

Some alternative products to gc2b binders are known to cause medical issues and illnesses, such as: ribs collapsing, heart and lung damage, and damage to breast tissue that often results in a higher risk of breast cancer; and,

WHEREAS

For Male to Female trans folx, the damage to the primary sex organs via improper tucking and/or use of compression gaffs/underwear can cause physical complications, such as urinary trauma, urinary infections, and associated tissue damage; and,

WHEREAS

ASCSU Senate has a responsibility to mitigate the aforementioned impacts to the best of their collective ability; and,

WHEREAS

"The term body politics refers to the practices and policies through which powers of society regulate the human body, as well as the struggle over the degree of individual and social control of the body"; and,

WHEREAS

Within the United States, the powers that regulate the human body are driven by a cisgendered, heteronormative and patriarchal lens; and,

WHEREAS

One can see this within structures that uphold gender binaries, policies that actively discriminate against trans identified folk, and other forms of political, sexual, mental, cultural, economic, and social marginalization.

WHEREAS

These structures manifest in the lives of trans students by not having access to the adequate resources necessary to mitigate the harmful impacts of the cisgender, heteronormative, and patriarchal society that trans students are required to survive in; and,

WHEREAS

Compared to cisgender folks, trans identified and non binary folks experience higher rates of mental health issues due to the compiled and intersecting forms of oppression; and,

WHEREAS:

According to the National College Health Assessment of CSU from fall of 2019, 67% of non-Binary students surveyed tested positive for a Suicide Risk and 59% were categorized under Serious Psychological Distress, both were statistically significantly higher than the national average; and,

WHEREAS

In this same survey collection, 71% of Non-Binary students at CSU reported high levels of stress, 60% depression, and 58% anxiety. The same areas when asked of male and female students were all below 40%; and,

WHEREAS

Colorado State University is showing increased rates in all areas of mental health in regards to gender non-conforming students. Responding to this call with access to gender affirming garments will in turn decrease these aforementioned numbers; and,

WHEREAS

Gender dysphoria is the feeling of discomfort or distress that might occur in people whose gender identity differs from their sex assigned at birth or sex-related physical characteristics; and,

WHEREAS

The *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* defines gender dysphoria in adolescents and adults as a marked incongruence between one's experienced/expressed gender and their assigned gender; and,

WHEREAS

“Colorado State University is committed to embracing diversity through the inclusion of individuals reflective of characteristics such as: age, culture, different ideas and perspectives, disability, ethnicity, first generation status, familial status, gender identity and expression, geographic background, marital status, national origin, race, religious and spiritual beliefs, sex, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, physical appearance, medical diagnosis, documentation status, and veteran status with special attention given to populations historically underrepresented or excluded from participation in higher education. The University's commitment to diversity is a longstanding one that reflects our role and mission as a land-grant institution”; so,

THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY ENACTED

That \$1000 be allocated from the ASCSU Office of the President's Discretionary Fund to the Gender Affirming Garment program; and,

THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY FURTHER ENACTED

That \$10,000 be allocated from the ASCSU Senate General Discretionary Fund to the Gender Affirming Garment program; and,

THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY FURTHER ENACTED

That \$400 be allocated from the ASCSU Office of Campus Engagement to the Gender Affirming Garment program; and,

THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY FURTHER ENACTED

That \$1000 be allocated from the ASCSU Office of Diversity and Inclusion to the Gender Affirming Garment program; and,

THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY FURTHER ENACTED

That the Pride Resource Center will use the money allocated from the aforementioned funding sources to purchase the following items: Bra inserts, compression underwear, tucking straps,

make-up, razors, binders, Trans tape, packing underwear, period cups, and info cards for safe use; and,

THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY FURTHER ENACTED

That the Pride Resource Center will adjust the item list above as is needed to best support, fund, and maintain the GAG program; and,

THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY FURTHER ENACTED

That the funds allocated from the ASCSU General Discretionary Fund and all listed departments be returned to the ASCSU General fund if not used by the Pride Resource Center and/or Women and Gender Advocacy Center by June 30th, 2025; and,

THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY FURTHER ENACTED

That a copy of this legislation be forwarded to Joyce McConnell, Colorado State University President; Dr. Blanche Hughes, Vice President for Student Affairs; Maggie Hendrickson, Assistant Director for Pride Resource Center; Christian Dykson, ASCSU President-elect; Jess Dyrdaahl, ASCSU Advisor; Hannah Taylor, ASCSU President; Bailey Dinsdale, ASCSU Accountant

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5/5/2021
DATE


PRESIDENT HANNAH TAYLOR

5/17/2021
DATE

TAGS: Use this section to place topic "tags," such as Residence Life, Dining Halls, Student Services, Parking, Liberal Arts College, etc.

Citation Reference

<https://diversity.colostate.edu/about/> <https://www.gc2b.co>